

TACKLE

ORIG: [REDACTED]
 UNIT: IDEA/OSA
 EXT: [REDACTED]
 DATE: 8 DEC 65

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

SECRET

ROUTING			
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PRIORITY	DEFERRED	XX	PRIORITY
	ROUTINE		OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

TO: [REDACTED]
 FROM: DIRECTOR
 CONF:
 INFO:

OA 1-10 R

44553

TO: [REDACTED] INFO

CITE

0833

FROM GENERAL LEDFORD

REF: [REDACTED]

1. SOLELY TO AVOID AN IMPASSE AND TO GET THE TACKLE PROGRAM BACK IN OPERATION, I AM AGREEING TO REINSTATEMENT OF THE CANNED ROUTE SYSTEM, BUT WITH CERTAIN CHANGES FROM THAT WHICH WE USED DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

2. I DO NOT WANT TO RETURN TO THE SHORT NOTICE CONCEPT, OR TWELVE-HOUR ALERT NOTIFICATION, WHICH WE EMPLOYED LAST SUMMER. THE WEATHER IN SOUTH CHINA HAS IMPROVED, GOOD WEATHER IS OF LONGER DURATION AND MORE PREDICTABLE AND THERE ARE NO ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED FROM THE TWELVE-HOUR ALERT CONCEPT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

3. OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THE CANNED ROUTE CONCEPT PROVED THAT WE WERE SEVERELY RESTRAINED WITH THE LIMITED NUMBER OF CANNED ROUTES [REDACTED] FOR INCLUSION IN THE LIBRARY. I WOULD LIKE FOR THE LIBRARY TO INCLUDE AT LEAST TWELVE CANNED ROUTES

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COVERING SOUTH CHINA (THAT AREA SOUTH OF 28 DEG NORTH LATITUDE) AND AS MANY ADDITIONAL CANNED ROUTES AS ARE REQUIRED TO COVER REQUIREMENTS IN THE REMAINING AREA OF CHINA, MANCHURIA AND NORTH KOREA. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THESE ADDITIONAL OR SPECIAL ROUTES WILL EVER BE IN EXCESS OF THREE.

4. BECAUSE THE INTELLIGENCE DATA PRODUCED BY THE TACKLE PROGRAM IS SO VITAL TO THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

25X1

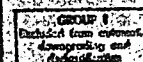
A. APPROXIMATELY TWELVE CANNED ROUTES TO BE PREPARED BY PROJECT HEADQUARTERS ASAP

25X1

THIS INITIAL LIBRARY OF ROUTES TO BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL 1 FEBRUARY 1966. PROPOSED NEW ROUTES, TO BE ADDED FOR SUCCEEDING MONTHS, TO BE AVAILABLE TO NOT LATER THAN THE TWENTIETH DAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

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	ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	INIT

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C. [] TO MAINTAIN A CONTINUOUS CAPABILITY TO LAUNCH AN OPERATIONAL MISSION WITH TWENTY FOUR HOURS NOTICE.

D. WHEN WEATHER IS FORECAST TO BE FAVORABLE AND REQUIREMENTS EXIST IN THE AREA OF GOOD WEATHER, HQ WILL ALERT A MISSION AND ADVISE [] AT LEAST TWENTY HOURS PRIOR TO MISSION LAUNCH.

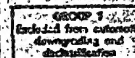
E. WHEN POSSIBLE, HQ WILL SELECT A CANNED ROUTE AT THE TIME OF THE ALERT WX BRIEFING (24 HOURS PRIOR TO LAUNCH). HOWEVER, WHEN THERE IS DOUBT AS TO WHICH ROUTE SHOULD BE SELECTED, HQ WILL DELAY ROUTE SELECTION UNTIL THE MISSION PLAN BRIEFING HELD AT 1100Z (APPROXIMATELY TWELVE HOURS PRIOR TO LAUNCH). [] 25X1 [] WILL BE MADE AWARE OF THE MISSION ROUTE AT LEAST TEN HOURS PRIOR TO MISSION LAUNCH. [] MSG TO BE TRANSMITTED AT THE TIME A ROUTE IS SELECTED.

F. DESIRE TO CONFIRM THAT [] 25X1 WILL ACCEPT SPECIAL MISSIONS, NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIBRARY, ON A 24 HOUR ALERT BASIS. WHEN THESE SPECIAL MISSION REQUIREMENTS ARE GENERATED, PROJ HQ WILL

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	ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	INIT

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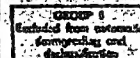
PLAN THE ROUTE AND ^{TRANSMIT} MISSION DETAILS ASAP SO AS TO PROVIDE AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE FOR [] COORDINATION AND APPROVAL. 25X1

5. WE SHOULD HAVE THE FIRST GROUP OF CANNED ROUTES READY FOR TRANSMISSION WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS. I WOULD EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT SEVERAL DAYS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE [] DETACHMENT TO GET THEM READY FOR SUBMISSION [] IT IS SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL, THEREFORE THAT [] APPROVAL OF THE ROUTES WILL BE RECEIVED AND THE CANNED ROUTE SYSTEM IN EFFECT PRIOR TO 23 DECEMBER. IN THE INTERIM, I WOULD HOPE THAT [] CAN CONVINCE [] OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING COVERAGE OF SOUTH CHINA TGTS AND NECESSITY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE TACKLE PROGRAM ON THE SAME BASIS AS IT WAS TWO WEEKS AGO I.E., TWENTY-FOUR HOUR ALERT, AND MISSION DETAILS TRANSMITTED ASAP AFTER ALERT. ALTHOUGH PARA 4C REF MSG RELATES THAT [] IS WILLING TO ACCEPT ALERTS ON A 36 HOUR ALERT BASIS DURING THIS INTERIM PERIOD, THIS IS SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT WITH HIS STATEMENT IN PARA 3 REF MSG THAT QUOTE SPECIAL MISSIONS OF AN URGENT AND PRIORITY NATURE, NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIBRARY COULD ALSO BE SUBMITTED ON A TWENTY FOUR HOUR ALERT

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BASIS UNQUOTE. IF TWENTY-FOUR HOUR NOTIFICATION IS ACCEPTABLE FOR "SPECIAL MISSIONS" AFTER THE CANNED ROUTE SYSTEM IS IN EFFECT, IT WOULD SEEM REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT IT SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE DURING THE PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY TO PLACE THE CANNED ROUTE SYSTEM IN EFFECT. WE CANNOT ACCEPT A 36-HOUR ALERT BASIS. SHOULD WE ATTEMPT THIS WE WOULD BE ALERTING MISSIONS ON A WEATHER FORECAST WHICH IS BASED ON WEATHER DATA THAT WOULD BE FORTY EIGHT HOURS OLD AT THE TIME OF SCHEDULED MISSION LAUNCH. THE INABILITY TO ACCURATELY FORECAST THE EXACT POSITION OF FAST MOVING SHORT TERM GOOD WEATHER AREAS 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE WOULD RESULT IN MANY MISSIONS ALERTED AND LATER CANCELLED IN ADDITION TO MANY MISSIONS WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN FLOWN BUT WERE NOT ALERTED BECAUSE OF A FORECAST OF BAD WEATHER.

6. COL. SHELTON HAS SEEN THIS MSG. AND CONCURS.
 END OF MESSAGE

FE/D

25X1

 JACK C. LEDFORD
 D/SA

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